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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
U.S. suspends plan for interim government in Iraq - Hurriyet  
Palestinian organizations reject road map, choose terror -  
Turkiye  
Erdogan letter to Bush: Continue cooperation with Turkey -  
Vatan  
Greece invites Turkey to EU Thessaloniki summit - Sabah  
Erdogan: We support the Bush-led Road Map - Milliyet  
Hamas strikes a blow against Aqaba summit - Milliyet 6/8  
Wolfowitz 'gang' distorted Iraqi WMD reports - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS  
Palestinian organizations' bloody response to call for  
disarmament - Radikal  
Palestine headed toward civil war - Cumhuriyet  
Peace hopes fading in Mideast - Zaman  
DEHAP asks for general amnesty for KADEK - Yeni Safak  
CSIS: U.S. seeking Turkey's support against Iran, Syria -  
Zaman 6/7  
Iran under American siege - Yeni Safak 6/8  
Pentagon knew that Saddam had no WMD - Milliyet 6/7  
Arabs, Muslims to be deported from U.S. - Cumhuriyet 6/8  
Ashcroft wants expanded death penalty, long detention for  
terrorists - Radikal 6/7  
Turkey ranks third in global unemployment - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

EU reform package: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said that  
Turkey would not ignore liberalization because of security  
concerns, and promised that the sixth package of EU  
adjustment laws would be submitted to the parliament this  
week without waiting for the June 26 meeting of the National  
Security Council (NSC). Gul stressed the need to modernize  
Turkey's administration. The reform package would allow  
broadcast in Kurdish on private television channels. Gul  
said on Saturday that the government would press ahead to  
enact the reforms despite objections by the military on some  
controversial issues such as broadcast in languages other  
than Turkish and changes to the Law on the Struggle Against  
Terrorism.

Erdogan prepares letter for Bush: MFA U/S Amb. Ugur Ziyal,  
who is expected to visit the U.S. later this week, will  
present a letter from Prime Minister Erdogan to President  
Bush, according to Turkish dailies. Erdogan's letter  
reportedly urges that Turkey and the U.S. forget past  
disagreements and look to the future: 'Turkey, which is  
still facing westward, views the U.S. as a strategic  
partner. The Iraqi nation trusts Turkey, and this could be  
to the advantage of the U.S.'

AJC delegation visit: An American Jewish Committee (AJC)  
delegation met with top-level Turkish leaders on Friday,  
weekend dailies reported. Harold Tanner, the head of the  
delegation, told officials that the AJC is ready to extend  
help in exchange for Turkey's support on regional problems.  
Prime Minister Erdogan vowed to boost Turkish-Israeli ties,  
and said he would pay a visit to Israel soon after the  
upcoming visit of Israeli President Katsav to Turkey.

Turkey wants to host Mideast peace summit: Prime Minister

Erdogan and Foreign Minister Gul have called their counterparts in Israel and Palestine, inviting them to a prospective summit meeting in Turkey on Middle East peace. Erdogan called Sharon on Sunday to denounce the killing of innocent people and to express Turkey's strong support for the Middle East roadmap highlighted by last week's summit in Agaba. Sharon expressed satisfaction about the level of Israeli-Turkish ties, and said that a likely meeting on Middle East peace should be held in Turkey, according to Monday's dailies.

Turkey's 'changing' Iraqi policy: Foreign Minister Gul told "Hurriyet" in a Sunday interview that Turkey will attempt to exert influence on Iraq via economic cooperation. Ankara prefers to address the Kurds via the central administration in Baghdad, Gul said. 'Kurds are an influential part of the new Iraq. Kurds are our neighbors, and we will protect them as well,' Gul noted. Gul is uneasy about the situation in Kirkuk, Hurriyet claims: 'A census should be held in Kirkuk to see the actual numbers of Turkomen in the region and to make healthier projections about Iraq's future,' Gul emphasized.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION

- a) Middle East
- b) Iraq and US-Turkey

"It's time for Mahmoud Abbas"  
Yasemin Congar wrote from Washington in mass appeal Milliyet (6/9): "Mahmoud Abbas managed to portray a Palestinian leadership which rules out acting with the 'victim' psychology and does not try to find a justification for terrorism. . Recent statements from both Sharon and Abbas have provided hope. Yet the realization of this hope requires Abbas to disarm the Islamic Jihad, and requires Sharon to resettle the illegal residents in the West Bank. In any case, we should be prepared for actions to undermine the peace effort from terrorist organizations as well as the Israeli right wing. Ankara, like any capital in the world that believes in the necessity of a Palestinian state as well as Israel's security needs, should be pleased with President Bush's involvement in the peace process. Ankara should also search for ways to contribute to this process. Establishing a dialogue with Abbas and his cabinet, for example, is one way to make such a contribution."

"Turkey sees the realities of northern Iraq"  
Ilnur Cevik wrote in the English language Turkish Daily News (6/9): "At last Ankara decided to set aside its prejudices and fears and send a Foreign Ministry delegation comprised of prominent ambassadors on a fact-finding mission to northern Iraq. The delegation came back with important findings that confirm what we have been saying for the past decade. Ankara has reportedly decided to ease some of its 'red lines' on Iraq, to take a softer line toward the Kurds, and to treat all groups in Iraq equally, without showing favoritism toward the Turkmen. That is welcome news for the Iraqi Kurds who, like the Turkmen, regard themselves as our relatives. Let us hope that the powerful military in Turkey shares the views of the government regarding the conciliatory mood toward the Kurds and the change of heart on Iraq."

PEARSON